

diminish the cost of inland transport, and that Your Excellency has reason to believe that the result will be a steady increase of valuable settlers, in the future.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency that during the recess negotiations were resumed with *British Columbia* in regard to several matters upon which differences had for some time existed between the two Governments; that one of Your Excellency's ministers visited that Province last summer on a special mission with a view to the adjustment of all questions in controversy and that his efforts have happily been successful. We trust that we shall be able to sanction the arrangements then made, and that by our so doing, all occasions of dispute will have been removed, and the most cordial relations established between the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The papers which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will be laid before us and the measures enabling Your Excellency to give effect to the agreement will not fail to receive from us the consideration Your Excellency has invited.

We hear with interest that the rapid increase of population in the North-West renders some amendments in the North-West Territories Act expedient. Our attention, which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will be called to this important matter, shall be given thereto.

We are much gratified to be informed that the progress of the Indians in *Manitoba* and the North-West during last year has been on the whole satisfactory and that the Bands included in the several Treaties have for the most part betaken themselves to their reserves. The Bill for the further promotion of their interests which Your Excellency has informed us will be submitted to us, as well as the measure applicable to the whole Dominion for the purpose of encouraging the more advanced Indian communities to assume the responsibilities of self-government, shall receive our most attentive consideration.

Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us that the Bill laid before us last Session for the representation of the people in Parliament and the assimilation of the electoral franchises existing in the several Provinces has now been before the Country for a year and that the measure will be reintroduced. Our attention, to which Your Excellency has commended it, shall be cheerfully given to this measure.

We respectfully note that Your Excellency would also urge upon us the expediency of providing for the regulation of factory labor and the protection of the workingman and his family, and that the measure submitted last Session with some amendments will be laid before us. This important subject shall receive our most careful consideration.

It is with the greatest gratification we hear from Your Excellency that the rapid progress of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been maintained throughout the past year; that of the two thousand eight hundred and thirty-three miles of the main line between *Pembroke* and *Port Moody*, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight miles are now constructed, rendering practicable the completion of that great work within the next two years. We receive with the deepest interest the information that although the time within which the Railway Company is bound to finish the road will not expire until 1891, Your Excellency's Government has thought it of the greatest importance for the settlement of the North-West and the development of our trade that its completion from sea to sea should be hastened and the company enabled to open the line throughout by the spring of 1886; that with this view, and in order to aid the Company in procuring sufficient capital for the purpose by the disposal of its unsold shares, the Government agreed to receive a deposit of money and securities sufficient to pay a minimum three per cent dividend for ten years on sixty-five millions of the stock, and that this arrangement was made in the belief that it would give steadiness and increased value to the shares on the market. We are much concerned to learn that a combination of unfavorable circumstances has prevented the fulfilment of these expectations, and that the Company has not been able to obtain the required capital by a sale of its stock; and we respectfully concur with Your Excellency's opinion that the best means of prevent-